

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A security substrate comprising a transparent polymer carrier layer ~~bearing~~ supporting indicia, said indicia comprising ~~formed from~~ a plurality of opaque and non opaque regions, and a clear transparent magnetic layer supported by the carrier layer, said magnetic layer comprising ~~containing~~ a distribution of particles of a flake nickel magnetic material[7] having a low coercivity of less than 100 oersteds and a ~~highly detectable~~ remanence of a level detectable on an inductive machine read head, and of a size and distributed in a concentration at which the magnetic layer remains clear and transparent.

2. **(Previously Presented)** A security substrate as claimed in claim 1 in which the transparent magnetic layer comprises a varnish in which are suspended the magnetic particles.

3. **(Previously Presented)** A security substrate as claimed in claim 1 in which the transparent magnetic layer lies between the carrier layer and the indicia.

4. **(Previously Presented)** A security substrate as claimed in claim 1 in which the indicia are formed on the carrier layer and the transparent magnetic layer covers the indicia.

5. **(Currently Amended)** A security substrate comprising a clear transparent polymer carrier layer, ~~bearing~~ supporting indicia, said indicia comprising ~~formed from~~ a plurality of opaque and non opaque regions, which carrier layer contains a distribution of particles of a soft magnetic

material having little or no magnetic remanence in the absence of an applied magnetic field, and of a size and distributed in a concentration at which the carrier layer remains clear and transparent.

6. **(Previously Presented)** A security substrate as claimed in claim 1 or claim 5 further comprising an additional layer of a transparent polymer laminated to the magnetic layer and/or indicia.

7. **(Previously Presented)** A security substrate as claimed in claim 1 or claim 5 further comprising a layer of adhesive applied to at least one side of the substrate.

8. **(Previously Presented)** A security substrate as claimed in claim 1 or claim 5 in which a layer of adhesive overlies the indicia.

9. **(Currently amended)** A security substrate as claimed in claim 1 or claim 5 further comprising a layer of high refractive index material directly or indirectly overlying the indicia.

10. **(Currently Amended)** A security substrate as claimed in claim 1 or claim 5 in which the indicia comprise a ~~are provided by~~ partially demetallised ~~ing a~~ metal layer, with remaining metal forming the opaque regions and the demetallised regions forming the non opaque regions.

11. **(Previously Presented)** A security substrate as claimed in claim 1 or claim 5 in which the indicia are printed.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A security substrate as claimed in claim 1 or claim 5 further including additional printed regions comprising ~~formed from~~ one or more inks having iridescent, luminescent, optically variable, liquid crystal, thermochromic and/or photochromic properties.

13. **(Currently Amended)** A security substrate as claimed in claim 1 or claim 5 comprising first indicia provided by demetallised and metallised regions and ~~printed~~ second indicia which are printed indicia.

14. **(Currently Amended)** A security substrate as claimed in claim 13 in which the ~~printed~~ second indicia overlie at least some of the metallic regions.

15. **(Currently Amended)** A security substrate as claimed in claim 13 in which the ~~printed~~ second indicia lie within the demetallised regions.

16. **(Previously Presented)** A security substrate as claimed in claim 1 or claim 5 further comprising an optically variable device.

17. **(Original)** A security substrate as claimed in claim 16 in which the optically variable device is formed by embossing a layer of embossing lacquer.

18. **(Original)** A security substrate as claimed in claim 16 in which the embossing lacquer lies between the magnetic layer and the indicia.

19. **(Cancel)**

20. **(Original)** A security substrate as claimed in claim 17 wherein the embossing layer overlies the indicia.

21. **(Previously Presented)** An elongate security element made by the step of slitting the substrate as claimed in claim 1 or claim 5 in register with the indicia.

22. **(Original)** A security document comprising a paper or polymer substrate incorporating a security thread as claimed in claim 21.